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The Files - RD-103

25 March 1959

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Visit to ARDC with Reference to Systems II Requirement

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1. On Monday afternoon, 2 March 1959, a visit was made to the Headquarters Air Research and Development Command, Andrews Air Force Base, in response to a request from Mr. [REDACTED]. The primary reason for this visit was to read a letter concerning an Air Force requirement for equipment similar to Systems II. It appeared that this requirement letter had been tailored to the utilization of the Systems II since it specifically mentioned the possibility of fulfilling this requirement with this equipment.

2. The officer responsible for this project at ARDC was Lt. Col. Charles Swanson. Col. Swanson was gratified to know that we would be quite willing to cooperate in every way to provide information, instruction manuals, and when necessary, the actual equipment required to evaluate this system for the requirement outlined. Col. Swanson stated that the actual test and evaluation of this system would be conducted by ARDC Detachment 1 at Wright Field under Col. William Congdon and Lt. Col. Bowker. A suggestion was made that Col. Swanson invite Col. Congdon and Lt. Col. Bowker to Washington to see the equipment and to meet with Agency personnel in order to discuss the plans for Air Force evaluation of this equipment.

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3. While discussing other matters of mutual interest, Mr. [REDACTED] revealed the pending delivery this May of a U. S. Air Force developed model of an automatic page reader. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he believed we would be quite interested in this device since it will automatically handle approximately 200 8-1/2" x 11" sheets, stacked in a hopper and read these at a rate of 2 pages per minute with at least 3200 characters per page. The scanning rate of the device is 300 characters per second and it will prepare teletype tape at a maximum rate of 240 characters per second or an average rate of 120 characters per second from the page copy. An Air Force letter outlining the characteristics and status of this device is attached hereto. Mr. [REDACTED] offered to advise us when the equipment was received and include us in the testing phase of this project.

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4. During the latter part of this meeting, Mr. [REDACTED] indicated his interest in an Air Force project concerned with detection of enemy missile firing and communication back to a friendly base of

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certain intelligence concerning these firings. Mr. [REDACTED] stated the Air Force was having a study conducted by Melpar to determine sensing techniques that would provide this intelligence and in addition methods of automatically transmitting the intelligence out of the area. Mr. [REDACTED] asked if we had a project of a similar nature and stated that they were going to initiate a study program to devise a communications device for this purpose. Following the conference permission was given to reveal the communications aspect only of the [REDACTED] project and this will be done in the near future.

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[REDACTED]

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Attachment:

Air Force letter dated 17 September 1958

OC-E/R&D-EP/WNH:wlj (25 March 1959) (12 March 1959)
Distribution:
R&D Subject File
Monthly Report
R&D Lab
EP Chrono

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